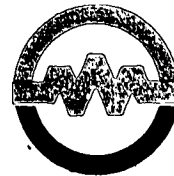


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PUB press release



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OPERATIONAL ACHIEVEMENTS OF 1977

The Year In Brief

The Public Utilities Board spent \$402.1 million in 1977 on projects to develop the Republic's electricity, water and gas production and distribution facilities, bringing the Board's total investment in property, plant and equipment to \$2,040.77 million. This amount is by far the largest sum spent for capital development in any one year since the formation of the Board in May, 1963.

1977 saw the completion of three major projects. These were the 230 kV underground electricity transmission ring, the two new gasmaking plants and the PUB Building. Satisfactory progress was maintained on the construction of Stage II of the Senoko Power Station Project and the Western Catchments Scheme. During the year work commenced on yet another water supply scheme -- the Pulau Tekong Scheme.

The Board was able to continue holding on to the electricity and gas tariffs throughout the year in spite of the fact that the costs of fuel oil and naphtha had risen during the year. Average costs of fuel oil and naphtha for 1977 were \$190/- and \$355/- per ton respectively compared with \$160/- and \$270/- per ton respectively paid in 1974 when the tariffs were last revised.

Electricity Projects

A major proportion (86.9%) of the total development expenditure was incurred by the Electricity Department. Of the \$349.6 million spent by the Electricity Department, \$237.9 million was for the construction of the Stage II development of the Senoko Power Station and the sum of \$92.4 million was expended on the extension of the Board's transmission and distribution network.

Construction of Senoko Power Station Stage II progressed satisfactorily. Civil engineering work and installation of the first boiler unit had reached an advanced stage of completion by the end of the year when the generator stator of the first 250 megawatt unit arrived at site. This \$600 million extension of the station which will eventually be equipped with three 250 MW turbine generators is expected to start operation in March 1979 with the synchronisation of the first 250 MW to the grid.

The commissioning of the Ayer Rajah 230 kV Substation in 1977 completed the 230 kV transmission ring linking the 230 kV substations at Senoko, Choa Chu Kang and Kallang thereby enhancing the security and reliability of the 230 kV power transmission system. This major power transmission system was installed at a total cost of just over \$100 million.

A total of 189 new substations were built in 1977, bringing the total number of substations in operation in the Republic to 2,233. 793 km of cables comprising both high and low voltage mains were laid in 1977.

Water Supply Projects

Capital expenditure of the Water Department totalled \$35.1 million in 1977. Of this, \$8.1 million was spent on the Western Catchments Scheme, \$3.4 million on the Pulau Tekong Scheme and \$16.9 million on water mains and service reservoirs.

The Western Catchments Scheme progressed satisfactorily during the year. By year end, three of the dykes had been completed (Tengeh, Bajau and Poyan) and work had begun on the fourth (Sarimbun). Construction of the Murai Dam commenced during the year. The scheme comprises four new impounding reservoirs to be formed by damming across the estuaries of four rivers -- Sarimbun, Murai, Tengeh and Poyan in the western part of Singapore. Scheduled for completion in 1981 this \$70 million project will enhance reservoir storage capacity by 28 million cubic metres.

1977 saw the implementation of the Pulau Tekong Water Supply Scheme to provide residents of this off-shore island with a regular piped water supply by 1979. This \$7.3 million project involves the construction of a 1.4 million cu m impounding reservoir and a treatment works with a rated capacity of 6,800 cu m per day. To

ensure storage of treated water and maintain adequate distribution pressure a 1140 cu m service reservoir will also be built on the island. Eight kilometres of mains will be laid for the island's distribution network.

During the year 120.8 km of mains were laid, of which 106.4 km were distribution mains chiefly to supply water to new housing developments. Work on the construction of service reservoirs at Kent Ridge, Bukit Kalang and Nanyang continued during the year. These three service reservoirs, estimated at \$4 million, \$17 million and \$8.5 million respectively will enable storage of 167,000 cu m of treated water by 1980.

New Gas Reformers

The Gas Department spent a total of \$7.7 million in 1977. \$5.4 million was spent on the expansion of the distribution network, \$1.5 million on purchase of gas appliances for hire and \$0.4 million for the erection of two new naphtha reformers. Erection of the two naphtha reformers was completed in May at a total cost of \$5.3 million, boosting the Gasworks' daily production capacity by 301,000 cu m.

71.14 km of gas mains were laid during the year. The bulk of the mainlaying activities were concentrated in HDB housing estates, mainly at Ang Mo Kio, Telok Blangah, Clementi and Bedok.

PUB Building

The Board was fully operational at its new building in Somerset Road on 9 May, 1977 after a 44-day removal programme. The estimated total cost of the 17-storey building named the PUB Building is \$64 million. A total of \$6 million was spent on the PUB Building in 1977.

Return from Operation

Recurrent expenditure was \$474.4 million in 1977, an increase of \$31.4 million or 7.09% over that for 1976. The Board's total income for 1977 amounted to \$591.2 million. Sales of electricity, water, and gas during 1977 were higher than in 1976. Electricity sales increased by 11.60%; water sales rose by 6.24%; and gas sales went up by 5.72%. After deduction of recurrent expenditure, the trading surplus was \$116.8 million which gives a net return from operation of 5.72% on the Board's total investments in fixed assets of \$2,040.77 million. After deducting loan repayments of \$71.4 million from the trading surplus of \$116.8 million, only \$45.4 million was available for financing capital development expenditure. External loans amounting to \$243.7 million were obtained in 1977 to finance the greater part of the Board's capital expenditure.

At the end of 1977, there were 507,945 consumers accounts an increase of 37,499 accounts or 7.97% over 1976.

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